



Archibald First School
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Headteacher **Mrs R Turner**

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30 November 2020

Dear Parents/Carers

Prior to the outbreak of COVID 19, we wrote to you regarding support with the development of the school grounds and our plans for outdoor learning.

Despite the pandemic, we are thrilled to share with you that we have been able to safely run our Forest Schools programme for some of the children in Years 1-3 at Archibald. Reception and Nursery are also now taking part in Forest Schools!

It is a great start but we still intend to use our school grounds more and more to engage our students in inquiry-based and hands-on learning in an outdoor classroom setting. (We are also still aiming for family involvement which we hope to achieve in 2021 when it is safe to do so.)

As our work outside moves forwards, we are looking develop our playground into an engaging, multi-sensory space to:-

- teach our children about growing and eating healthy food
- involve our children in growing and caring for plants
- attract wildlife
- become a community space

Aside from the physical health benefits, learning in an outdoor environment has been shown to increase mental health by boosting mood, confidence and self-esteem.

We are committed to making sure we have healthy soil and plants so that our students have the best learning opportunities we can offer them. Therefore, we would welcome any donations of seedlings and bushes. In addition, we would like any wood suitable for making raised beds (scaffolding boards, decking, sleepers).

If you are able to facilitate any of the above; please email admin@archibald.newcastle.sch.uk by 16th December so that we can gather a list together and begin to make plans for the use of any donations. For plants, seedlings, shrubs etc; once all emails have been received, we will contact you to arrange a suitable date. (Plants/shrubs/bushes in January, seedlings in spring.)

Regarding the wood donations, please send in images of potential donations FAO Mr Holman. We will then make contact to let you know if we can use your wood donation and arrange a date for delivery to school.

Yours sincerely

The Outdoor Learning Team

Having fun, achieving excellence.

Successful learners. Confident individuals. Responsible citizens.